

Message Text

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R 060440Z DEC 73

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SUBJ: GOI ANNOUNCES NEW CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES
FOR SMALL INDIGENOUS BUSINESSMEN

REF: JAKARTA 4538

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

SUMMARY: GOI ANNOUNCED DECEMBER 4 THAT BANK OF INDONESIA
WILL ISSUE NEW REGULATIONS AUTHORIZING INVESTMENT CREDITS
AND WORKING CAPITAL LOANS OF UP TO \$12,000 TO SMALL,
INDIGENOUS BUSINESSMEN ON EASIER TERMS THAN PREVIOUSLY.
NEW CREDIT POLICY IS DESIGNED TO STIMULATE SMALL
ENTREPRENUERSHIP AND MEET RISING PUBLIC DEMANDS FOR
GREATER ATTENTION TO PROBLEMS OF ECONOMICALLY WEAK
INDIGENOUS BUSINESSMEN. FOLLOWING BASED ON PRESS
REPORTS DECEMBER 5. END SUMMARY.

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1. NEW SMALL BUSINESS CREDIT POLICY WAS ANNOUNCED BY GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION MASHURI FOLLOWING DECEMBER 4 MEETING OF ECONOMIC STABILIZATION COUNCIL, WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY PRESIDENT SUHARTO. ACCORDING TO MASHURI, NEW SCHEME COINCIDES WITH POLICIES UNDER THE SECOND FIVE YEAR PLAN DESIGNED TO STIMULATE SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT. IT IS SEQUEL TO MEASURES ANNOUNCED LAST APRIL (REFTEL), WHICH DIRECTED 65 PCT OF GOVERNMENT BANK CREDITS TO LOANS OF \$60,000 OR LESS AND SET UP SPECIAL AGENCY (P T BAHANAN) TO PROVIDE EQUITY FINANCING TO SMALL AND MEDIUM INVESTORS. (COMMENT: NEITHER MEASURE HAS YET HAD MUCH EFFECT.)

2. UNDER NEW POLICY INDIGENOUS BUSINESSMEN WHO QUALIFY WILL BE ABLE TO BORROW UP TO RUPIAH 5 MILLION (12,000) IN INVESTMENT CAPITAL AT 15 PCT FROM GOVERNMENT BANKS FOR NEW PROJECTS. (PREVIOUS RATE WAS APPROXIMATELY 18PCT). BORROWERS WILL BE PARTIALLY OR ENTIRELY EXEMPT-DEPENDING ON THEIR BACKGROUND AND THE NATURE OF THE PROJECT-FROM REQUIREMENT OF OTHER GOVERNMENT CREDIT SCHEMES THAOWBORROWER CONTRIBUTE 25 PCT OF PROJECT CAPITAL.

3. APPLICATION CROCEDURES FOR OBTAINING SUCH LOANS HAVE BEEN SIMPLIFIED, AND BRANCH OFFICES OF BANK OF INDONESIA IN PROVINCES HAVE BEEN GIVEN BROADER AUTHORITY TO EVALUATE APPLICATIONS AND AUTHORIZED LOANS. P T ASKRINDO, GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED CREDIT INSURANCE AGENCY, WILL PARTICIPATE AS GUARANTOR OF LOANS UNDER NEW POLICY.

4. NEW CREDIT POLICY WILL ALSO MAKE POSSIBLE LOANS OF "PERMANENT WORKING CAPITAL" FOR EXISTING BUSINESS ACTIVITIES AT 15 PCT A YEAR FOR THREE YEARS, WITH OPPORTUNITY FOR ONE YEAR EXTENSION. CEILING FOR SUCH WORKING CAPITAL LOANS WILL ALSO BE \$12,000.

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5. COMMENT: NEW CREDIT POLICY IN SUPPORT OF SMALL
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INDIGENOUS BUSINESSMEN IS OBVIOUSLY RESPONSE TO GROWING PUBLIC CLAMOR FOR GRATER ATTENTION TO THIS GROUP, WHICH IS WIDELY REGARDED AS VICTUM OF GOVERNMENT INDIFFERENCES ND SOMETIMES FAVORITISM TOWARD CHINESE AND FOREIGN BUSINESSMEN. HOWEVER, SUCCESS OF NEW CREDIT POLICIES, AS ANOTHER MEANS OF BOOSTING SMALL INDIGENOUS BUSINESS GROWTH, WILL DEPEND ON STRENGTHENING BANKING SYSTEM TO ENSURE PROPER IMPLEMENTATION. GOVERNMENT

BANKING OPERATIONS ARE OFTEN CRIPPLED BY BRIBERY AND
LACK OF PROFESSIONAL STAFF AND INADEQUATE UNDERSTANDING
OF BUSINESS. RESULT HAS BEEN FREQUENT MIS-ALLOCATION
OF CREDITS AND HIGH RATE OF BAD LOANS.
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